

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-25 and 74-80 have been withdrawn.

Claims 27, 37, 46, 50-73 and 81-113 have been allowed. Claims 29-34, 39-43 and 47-49 have been objected-to. Claims 26, 28, 35, 36, 38, 44 and 45 have been rejected.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 26, 28, 35, 36, 38, 44 and 45 have been rejected as being anticipated by Wine. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 26 includes features which are not disclosed or suggested by the cited reference, namely:

- a codeword of a **direct current component** of each of small blocks . . . is present in a fixed position in the recording packet. . . ,
- an **end-of-block code** representing that the code word of the small block is discontinued hereinafter . . . is disposed in an area to which the codeword of the small block is assigned,
- a part of the area to which the codeword of the small block is assigned, **which part is behind the end-of-block code, is set as a general-purpose data recording area. . .**

The features of claim 26 may be seen, for example, in Figs. 20(a) and 20(b). As shown, a direct current (DC) component of each DCT block in a frame is present in a fixed position. The end-of-block (EOB) code, **which represents that the codeword of the block is discontinued hereinafter**, is placed in the area of the DCT block (the EOB is placed within a 2 byte area). A part of the area, denoted by an area of 12 bytes (FIG. 20a) or 8 bytes (FIG. 20b), is set as a general-purpose data recording area. The input data is recorded in this general-purpose data recording area.

The invention advantageously, as shown in Fig. 20(a), assigns 2 bytes of the DCT block to the DC component and the EOB code. The remaining 12 bytes of the DCT block is used for general-purpose data recording.

The invention is different from the DCT block shown in Fig. 19(a), for example, in which the DCT block of 14 bytes is completely taken up by the DC code, the AC code and the EOB code. The invention, as recited in claim 26, allows 12 bytes of a DCT block to be used as a general-purpose data recording area.

Wine discloses a digital videotape recording/playback system for processing a high definition television signal. In Fig. 9, Wine discloses a general pictorial representation of the data format consistent with the MPEG standard. As disclosed by Wine in Fig. 9, each group of pictures (GOP) includes DCT blocks, each block including first a DC coefficient, secondly several AC coefficients, and thirdly an end-of-block (EOB) code. The EOB is appended at the end of each successively occurring DCT block of data. This is shown as L6, at the bottom of Fig. 9.

As disclosed by Wine, the area of the DCT block is entirely filled by codes. The entire area of the block is filled with a DC coefficient, several AC coefficients and an end denoted by an EOB. There is no room for any data bytes that are not part of the DCT coefficients.

Wine has **no** suggestion of placing an EOB within the area of the codeword, so that any **remaining portion of the area in the codeword (recited as "behind the end of block code")** may be indicated by an EOB. Wine does **not** disclose that the portion of the area which is behind the end-of-block code is set as a general-purpose data recording area. Wine does **not** disclose that input data may be assigned to this general purpose data recording area.

Favorable reconsideration of claim 26 is respectfully requested.

Claim 28

Claim 28, which has been objected-to, further limits claim 26 by reciting the following feature:

- the end-of-block code is **disposed immediately behind the code word of the direct current component** of the small block.

As recited, claim 28 sets forth that the end-of-block code is placed **immediately behind** the codeword of the DC component.

As shown in Fig. 9, Wine discloses that the end-of-block code is placed immediately behind the AC components of the block. Wine does **not** disclose that the end-of-block code is placed immediately behind the DC component.

Claims 36 and 45

Although not the same, independent claims 36 and 45 include features similar to claim 26. Claims 36 and 45 are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited reference for the same reasons set forth for claim 26.

Dependent claims 28-35 depend from claim 26 and are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited reference for at least the same reasons set forth for claim 26.

Dependent claims 38-44 depend from claim 36 and dependent claims 47-49 depend from claim 45. These claims are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited reference for at least the same reasons set forth for claim 26.

IDS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the references enclosed with the IDS filed on August 3, 1999 and to initial and return the Form 1449 to the undersigned.

Conclusion

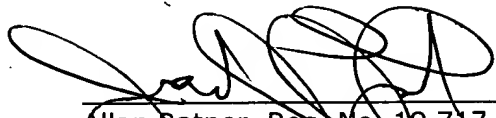
Claims 27, 37, 46, 50-73, and 81-113 have been allowed.

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Claims 26, 28-36, 38-45, 47-49 are also in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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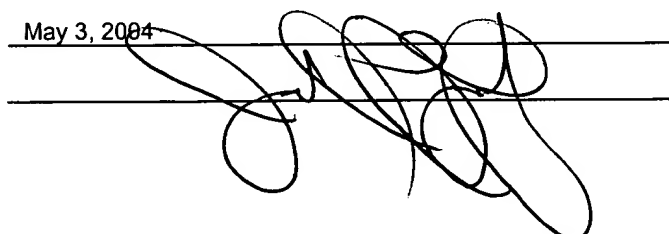
Enclosure: Copy of IDS filed August 3, 1999
Dated: May 3, 2004

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